

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Kindly amend the Abstract as follows:

A system and method are disclosed for switching contexts within a spoken dialog between a user and a spoken dialog system. The spoken dialog system utilizes modular subdialogs ~~selected or developed for being~~ that one invoked by at least one flow controller that is a finite state model and that associated with a dialog manager ~~that manages the spoken dialog.~~ The spoken dialog system includes a dialog manager with a flow controller and a reusable subdialog module. The method ~~comprises~~ includes, while the spoken dialog is being controlled by the subdialog module that was invoked by the flow controller, receiving context-changing input associated with speech from a user that changes a dialog context and comparing the context-changing input to at least one context shift. And, if any of the context shifts are activated by the comparing step, then the ~~method comprises~~ passing control of the spoken dialog to the flow controller with context shift message and destination state. ~~The spoken dialog system manages the dialog via a stack of flow controllers and/or dialog modules.~~